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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2003

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Report Highlights:

Export prices changed slightly, except prices for fragrant rice which continued to increase.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Price (Week Ending Dec. 29):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	500	475	482	499	500	490	460	487	479
WR 100 B	205	207	206	205	208	205	203	206	205
PB 5%	192	192	196	204	195	202	195	197	198
WR 5%	200	203	200	200	200	199	198	200	199
WR 10%	197	198	196	197	196	195	193	196	195
WR 15%	193	194	191	195	193	190	188	192	191
WR 25%	187	189	188	192	187	183	183	187	186
WR 35%	185	184	186	190	182	179	178	183	182
A 1 SUP	165	169	164	168	167	163	160	165	165
A 1 SPEC	162	167	163	166	166	-	158	164	163
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for most grades of rice changed slightly, except prices for fragrant rice. Trade sources reported that the market for white rice was quiet due to the long New Year's Eve holiday. However, the government intervention program has helped to stabilize domestic prices for white rice. As of Dec. 29, 03, the government bought around 1.3 million tons of paddy, most of which are white rice paddy. Meanwhile, export prices for fragrant rice continued to increase in response to ongoing shipments to fulfill the outstanding contracts with regular buyers, like China and Hong Kong. Moreover, available supply is reportedly limited by local traders' speculation.

The following are reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
NOV 9	124,835	132,090	4,336	5,168
NOV 16	122,785	132,784	4,459	5,263
NOV 23	146,044	136,158	4,605	5,383
NOV 30	143,301	134,241	4,748	5,492
DEC 7	86,287	124,604	4,834	5,543
DEC 14	117,731	123,341	4,952	5,607
DEC 21	102,416	112,434	5,054	5,700
DEC 28	150,601	114,259	5,205	5,789

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports for Dec. 22-28, 2003 totaled 150,601 tons, up 48,184 tons from the previous week's total and up 36,342 tons from the four-week moving average of 114,259 tons. Exports during Jan. 1- Dec. 28, 2003, totaled 5,204,896 tons, compared with 5,788,662 tons (including fragrant rice) during the same period in 2002.

According to the Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Dec. 16, 2003 amounted to 7,110,932 tons, up slightly from 6,918,225 tons in 2002.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Dec. 8-12, Dec. 15-19, and Dec. 22-26, 2003 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Dec. 8-12	Dec. 15-19	Dec. 22-26
weekly sales	116,808	116,790	205,502
4 week sum	455,567	427,881	547,127
4 week mov avg.	113,892	106,970	136,782
Total weekly sales	5,230,667	5,347,457	5,552,959

End of Report.